



School Active Travel Policy

This Policy covers bicycles and scooters which children might use in travelling to and from school. As we recognise both the environmental and health benefits of cycling and riding scooters we would like to work, in partnership with parents, to provide a clear understanding of responsibilities which will help to support safe cycling and scooter riding.

Some of the benefits of cycling and riding scooters to school include:

- Improving health through physical activity.
- Establishing positive active travel behaviours.
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community.
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.

The school will:

- Actively promote cycling and riding scooters as a positive way of travelling.
- Provide cycle/scooter stands on school premises. We recommend that all cycles/scooters are securely chained to a stand to reduce the potential for loss/damage and children are to provide their own locks. Storage for helmets and other cycle/scooter equipment will be made available in school. The school's insurance does not cover bicycles, scooters or related equipment – they are brought to school at your own risk.
- Offer Bikeability cycle training for pupils where available including Level 1 Playground Based Bikeability Training and Level 2 Road Based Bikeability Training. Where possible the school will also promote scooter training and cycle training in the school with clubs and workshops.
- All children bringing cycles and scooters onto the school premises must have signed the school cycling/scooter agreement including those who are accompanied by parents. The agreement sets out the responsibilities of everyone involved to ensure they are aware of this Policy and to support safe cycling and scooter riding.
- The school recommends the use of straight inline scooters rather than the 3 wheel flicker type scooters as they can take up a lot of room on the pavement, but they will be allowed on school premises as long as they have signed the agreement.

The decision to allow a child to cycle to school rests with parents. We strongly recommend that all children who cycle and ride a scooter to school are accompanied by an adult; until such time as the parent is confident the child has the knowledge and skills to be allowed to cycle unsupervised. Responsibility for children whilst on their way to or from school rests with parents. The school cannot take responsibility for the safety of children outside school.

We expect children to:

- Ride sensibly and safely and to following the rules of the Highway Code that relate to cycling, including always giving way to pedestrians on footpaths.



The Willows

Greatbatch Avenue, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7JY



Primary School

Explore - Dream - Discover

Web: www.willowsprimary.com

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Tel: (01782) 233280 Fax: (01782) 233282

Head Teacher: Mrs S Thursfield

Deputy Head: Mrs C Beltran

- Take responsibility for checking that their bicycle is roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Behave in a manner which shows them, and the school, in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling and riding their scooters.
- Wear a cycle or scooter helmet – we strongly recommend that all children wear helmets when cycling or scooting. These should fit well and conform to British standards.
- Dismount from bicycles and scooters at the designated school gate and walk on the school site.
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users by using bicycle lights and wearing high-visibility clothing as appropriate, especially during winter months

We expect parents and carers to:

- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling / scooter riding such as school clubs and training.
- Provide their child with the appropriate safety equipment such as a cycle / scooter helmet, bicycle lights and high visibility clothing. We cannot force children to wear a helmet, but in the interests of safety we ask parents to insist their child does so. Please note that for any scooter/cycle clubs that take place in school, including after school clubs, that helmets must be worn by all participants.
- Ensure that the cycles and scooters being ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Identify the safest cycling / scooter route to school with their children and point out particular hazards and danger points.
- Ensure that children coming to and from school on their own are “road aware” and that for bikes they have passed their Bikeability Training. We recommend that children who have not completed Bikeability are accompanied by an adult.
- Ensure that children dismount their bikes and scooters when reaching the school gates and wheel bikes and scooters through the gates. Riding in the playground is not acceptable at any time.
- Sign the school agreement for bringing a bicycle or scooter onto school premises and ensure that children are adhering to the agreement.
- Ensure that all cycles and scooters are security marked or post coded and that all equipment is name marked

Recommended maintenance checks for bicycles.

- Both brakes are working.
- Tyres are pumped up and wheels are not wobbling sideways.
- Handlebars and the saddle are straight and tight and adjusted to the correct height for the child.
- Front, rear and wheel reflectors are clean and visible.
- Lights (if fitted) are working, clean and visible.

The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle or ride a scooter to and from school safely rests with the parents/carer and the school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.



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Agreement for Bikes and Scooters in School

This agreement entitles the holder to bring a bicycle/scooter on to school premises, for the purposes of travelling to and from school, providing that the rider:

_____ (child's name)

1. Has read and understood the information provided in the school's Cycle and Scooter Policy and will adhere to that policy.
2. Will be accompanied by an adult or the parent/carer has taken the considered decision that the child is competent to cycle or ride a scooter to school independently.
3. Will wear a cycle / scooter helmet correctly when travelling to and from school.
4. Will use a safe route to school.
5. Will always give way to pedestrians on footpaths.
6. Will dismount from their bicycle / scooter at the school gate and walk their cycle / scooter into the school grounds.
7. Will ensure that their bicycle / scooter is well maintained and roadworthy.
8. Will take responsibility for the storage of their bicycle / scooter in the designated bike racks, securing it with a lock and chain if they have one, with the understanding that this storage is at your own risk as school has no responsibility or liability for such items on school premises.

Signed (Child): _____

Signed (Parent/Guardian): _____

Date: _____

